

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2116

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. HONG KONG 7982; B. PEKING 2035

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH PINT SOPN

SUBJ: PEOPLE'S DAILY SHIFTS COVERAGE OF THE CAMPAIGN

1. SUMMARY: OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, WE HAVE NOTICED A DEFINITE SHIFT IN PEOPLE'S DAILY PRESENTATION OF DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND DISCUSSION OF THE ONGOING CAMPAIGN. PEOPLE'S DAILY IS OPENLY DISCUSSING OPPOSITION TO RECENT EDUCATION REFORMS AND CONTINUING PROVINCIAL PROBLEMS. SEVERAL ARTICLES EVEN REFER TO SOME INDIVIDUALS WHO CRITICIZE THE CURRENT REFORMS AS "REVERSING VERDICTS" IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. SUCH COVERAGE SUGGESTS THAT THE GANG OF FOUR CAMPAIGN IS ENTERING A NEW PHASE WITH SOME PRC LEADERS (ESPECIALLY TENG HSIAO-PING) DETERMINED TO OVERCOME RESISTANCE TO NEW POLICIES. END SUMMARY.

2. FRANK DISCUSSION OF CONTINUING LIN PAIO AND GANG
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OF FOUR PROBLEMS HAS BECOME A REGULAR FEATURE OF THE PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. PEOPLE'S DAILY APPEARS TO HAVE SHIFTED ITS EDITORIAL STYLE IN EARLY JUNE, JUST AFTER TENG HSIAO-PING'S SPEECH TO THE ALL ARMY POLITICAL WORK CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE CALLED FOR "SEEKING TRUTH FROM FACTS" RATHER THAN BLIND RELIANCE ON DOGMA. SINCE THAT SPEECH WAS

PUBLISHED, FOR INSTANCE, PEOPLE'S DAILY HAS CARRIED:

--A JUNE 15 ARTICLE CASTIGATING SHENSI FIRST SECRETARY LI JUI-SHAN FOR NEGLECTING YENAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (REF A). A JULY 8 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONED AN "IMPORTANT DIRECTIVE" BY A "RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE PARTY CENTER" ON SHENSI'S PROBLEMS; --A SPATE OF ARTICLES DISCUSSING CONTINUING LIN PIAO AND GANG OF FOUR PROBLEMS IN KIRIN, LIAONING, ANHWEI, CHEKIANG AND OTHER AREAS; -- A JULY 8 REPORT ON A RECENT CHINGHAI CONFERENCE ON CADRE POLICY. THE REPORT RHETORICALLY ASKED IF IMPLEMENTING CADRE POLICY WAS "REVERSING THE VERDICTS ON THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION" AND ANSWERED IN THE NEGATIVE (JULY 9 PEOPLE'S DAILY); --A JULY 9 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE COVERING A JUNE 26 COMMENTARY FROM NANKING'S HSINHUA DAILY, ATTACKED "SOME COMRADES" WHO STILL HAVE A "LINGERING FEAR" OF BEING LABELED "RIGHTIST IN THOUGHT" OR BEING CRITICIZED FOR "NEGATING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION". THE CADRES, THE COMMENTARY CONTINUED, "DON'T DARE TO GRASP WELL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION."

3. THE CHANGE IN TONE APPEARS TO REFLECT THE POLICIES ASSOCIATED WITH TENG HSIAO-PLING AND COULD CONCEIVABLY INDICATE THAT CONTROL OVER THE PEOPLE'S DAILY SHIFTED
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IN EARLY JUNE OR LATE MAY. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, THE FRANK REFERENCES TO CONTINUING PROBLEMS SUGGESTS THAT TENG AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP ARE PUSHING AHEAD WITH NEW REFORMS AND THE LIN PIAO/ GANG OF FOUR CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER RESISTANCE IN SOME AREAS. ONE EVEN DETECTS IMPATIENCE WITH THE PACE OF THE CAMPAIGN DESPITE THE REMOVAL OF PROVINCIAL FIGURES IN CHEKIANG IN LATE MAY AND THE PURGE OF HSIEH HSUEH-KUNG IN TIENTSIN IN JUNE. IF PEOPLE'S DAILY IS ACCURATELY REFLECTING THE SITUATION IN THE PROVINCES, THEN THE CAMPAIGN SHOWS DEFINITE SIGNS OF HEATING UP IN THOSE AREAS WHERE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES HAVE LAGGED BEHIND IN PURSUIT OF THE FOLLOWERS OF LIN PIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR.
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